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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 667
By Womack

A RESOLUTION urging the Commissioner of Health to develop a quality care incentive plan for nursing homes participating in the Medicaid program.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly declares that enhanced standards of care for nursing home residents is a desirable goal; and

WHEREAS, implementation of such enhanced standards of care will necessarily increase nursing home costs; and

WHEREAS, one method of enhancing nursing home standards that has been developed in other states is a program which provides incentives for nursing homes participating in the Medicaid program to exceed basic standards; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Commissioner of Health is hereby urged to develop a quality care incentive plan for nursing homes that participate in the Medicaid program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the quality care incentive plan should contain the following features:

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(1) additional reimbursements to nursing homes participating in the Medicaid program that meet or exceed quality standards established as part of the quality care incentive plan;

(2) the quality standards established under the quality care incentive plan should be determined in consultation with an advisory panel appointed by the Commissioner of Health, such panel to include a representative of the American Association of Retired Persons, at least one (1) other consumer with nursing home experience, at least one (1) representative of the nursing home industry, a nursing home administrator, and a physician, and a registered nurse with nursing home experience;

(3) participation in the quality care incentive plan should be optional at the election of each Medicaid-participating nursing home;

(4) the procedures for making election to participate and the criteria for maintaining participation in the plan should be established by rule by the Commissioner of Health;

(5) additional payments should be made to a Medicaid-participating nursing home that elects to participate in the quality care incentive plan;

(6) costs incurred by a Medicaid-participating nursing home for the purposes of qualifying for and maintaining participation in the plan should be allowable costs in the determination of such nursing home's per diem cost under Medicaid;

(7) any additional payments made to nursing homes for participation in the quality care incentive plan should not be limited to the maximum per diem payments otherwise established for nursing homes, but should not exceed funding allocated for the plan; and

(8) an additional license fee for nursing home beds or other revenue source to provide the necessary funding for the quality care incentive plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of Health is urged to present to the 102nd General Assembly the legislation necessary to implement the quality of care incentive plan described in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Health.